



### Evaluation Rubric for *SPARK! Practice Journal* Article Submissions

Authors should refer to this rubric when writing and submitting articles for publication consideration in *SPARK! Practice* journal, and reviewers should use this rubric during the peer-review process.

<b>● Content</b>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Contribution to the Field:</b> Article presents innovative teaching strategies and solutions, new insights or perspectives on current research or practices in early childhood education.</li> <li>○ <b>Evidence-Based:</b> Article is grounded in empirical evidence and research and cites relevant, primary sources published within the last 5–8 years unless they are seminal sources. The author avoids online resources such as Wikipedia.</li> <li>○ <b>CDA and Licensing Alignment:</b> Article content aligns with Child Development Associate (CDA) competencies and/or Louisiana Bulletin 137 licensing topics.</li> <li>○ <b>Professional Stories:</b> Articles shares relevant professional stories and observations from educators to enhance understanding of research-based practices.</li> </ul>	
<b>● Structure and Organization</b>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Clarity:</b> Article is well-written and easy to understand. The author uses clear and concise language, appropriate terminology, and logical transitions<sup>9</sup>.</li> <li>○ <b>Word Count:</b> Article meets the required word count of 3,000–3,500 words, excluding the reference list and graphics.</li> <li>○ <b>Visuals:</b> Article may include high-resolution photographs, children’s work samples, charts, and graphs that enhance content understanding.</li> <li>■ Visuals must meet the photo release requirements for publication.</li> </ul>	
<b>● Impact and Usefulness</b>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Practical Application:</b> Article provides clear guidance on implementing research-based strategies and practices in early childhood settings.</li> <li>○ <b>Teaching Tool:</b> Article serves as a teaching tool by including multiple choice questions, discussion questions, reflection questions</li> <li>○ <b>Audience Engagement:</b> Article is engaging and interesting to early childhood educators, including teachers, providers, faculty, administrators, and other professionals working with young children.</li> </ul>	
<b>● References and Resources</b>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Ethical Considerations:</b> Author uses pseudonyms for children to protect confidentiality and has obtained necessary permissions for use of photos and other materials.</li> <li>○ <b>Accuracy and Completeness:</b> References and resources are accurately cited and complete.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>APA Style:</b> Article uses the American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition style for formatting and references.</li> <li>○ <b>Quality and Relevance:</b> Sources cited are high-quality, relevant, and support the article's claims.</li> </ul>	
Total	30
Points earned	

Comments: